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15 March 1955

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., 15 MARCH 1955

A meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts was held in its offices in the Interior Department Building on Tuesday, 15 March 1955. The following members were present:

David E. Finley, Chairman
Felix W. de Weldon
Wallace K. Harrison
Emily L. Muir
Douglas W. Orr
Elbert Peets
William G. Perry
also Linton R. Wilson, Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 9:30 a. m.

Proceedings:

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN: The Chairman welcomed the four newly-appointed members (Mrs. Muir, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Orr, and Mr. Perry) and gave a brief resume of duties entailed by service on the Commission. He added that an election for the chairmanship was in order, as he had served in this capacity for four years. Mr. de Weldon made a motion to re-elect Mr. Finley in view of the latter's broad experience. The move, seconded by Mr. Peets and Mr. Perry, was put to a vote and unanimously carried.

Chairman Finley thanked the membership and then accepted nominations for the vice-chairmanship. Mr. Peets nominated Mr. Orr who in turn nominated Mr. Harrison. Mr. Harrison withdrew in favor of Mr. Orr and the latter's nomination was seconded by Mr. de Weldon. The motion was voted upon and carried unanimously.

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Chairman Finley thanked the membership and then accepted nominations for the vice-chairmanship. Mr. Peebe nominated Mr. Orr who in turn nominated Mr. Harrison. Mr. Harrison withdrew in favor of Mr. Orr and the latter's nomination was seconded by Mr. de Weldon. The motion was voted upon and carried unanimously.

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF 2 DECEMBER 1954 AND 10 FEBRUARY 1955: Since the minutes of the meetings of 2 December 1954 and 10 February 1955 had not been completed for distribution prior to today's meeting, no action was taken on them.

An explanation was made by the Chairman of the delay in preparation of the minutes of previous meetings, with the statement that an increase in appropriations was needed for an additional employee to assist in the office work of the Commission. The Secretary added that the Civil Service regulations currently limit personnel to four positions, but that financial limitations permitted only three paid employees. He said he hoped additional funds might be requested in the fiscal year 1957 budget for the fourth position, a research assistant. Among other things, this would free the present clerk to complete the minutes on schedule.

3. COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS - LIMIT OF AUTHORIZATION: The Chairman said that legislation was being introduced in Congress to increase the $10,000 limit of authorization which was established in 1910 for the Commission of Fine Arts. Congressman Frank Thompson of New Jersey introduced H. R. 4534 in the House and Senator Theodore Green of Rhode Island introduced identical bill S. 1413 in the Senate.

This action was taken at the appropriation hearings as a result of the request of the Chairman of the Appropriation Committees, this year and in previous years. The National Park Service, Interior Department, had agreed to include legislation in an omnibus bill when they submitted one, but the prospect of an early formulation of such a bill was uncertain; and it was decided to have a special bill introduced (Exhibits A and A-1).

4. COMMITTEE OF ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANTS ON GEORGETOWN: The Chairman explained that the Commission of Fine Arts, in the administration of

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4. COMMITTEE OF ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANTS ON EXPOSITION: The Chairman explained that the Commission of Fine Arts, in the administration of

the "Old Georgetown" law--Public Law 808-81st Congress--An act "To regulate the height, exterior design, and construction of private and semipublic buildings in the Georgetown area of the National Capital," was authorized to make use of the assistance of a committee of three architects, appointed by the Commission to serve in an advisory capacity. He said that this law also had authorized $8000.00 for a survey of Georgetown which would give some indication of the buildings that were worthy of preservation. The Commissioners of the District of Columbia were requested to make such a survey, but insufficient funds had prevented its being done up to this time.

On the strength of these statements, Mr. Orr suggested that steps be taken to determine whether the present $21,000 appropriation could be increased to $30,000 to meet the requirements of the Secretary's office, and a part of the Georgetown expenses.

Chairman Finley praised the valuable services rendered by the Georgetown Committee, but advised that Mr. Walter Macomber, who has served for four years, wished to retire. Another member, Mr. Lorenzo Winslow, former Consulting Architect to the White House, also had served four years. The Chairman suggested that three-year terms under a rotation plan be inaugurated as the Board's work is time-consuming and makes many demands upon the members. This was approved by the Commission.

5. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN, STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS: The Chairman read a letter dated 30 June 1954, received from the President of the National Academy of Design in which the Academy requested the Commission of Fine Arts to forward to the President of the United States several recommendations regarding commissions for architecture, sculpture, and mural painting, which they believed would result in creation of better

government buildings and of more satisfactory embellishment of the same; also recommendations which they believed would aid in securing better designs for government postage stamps. Copies of the letter were supplied to the members for study and consideration at the next meeting of the Commission.

Referring to the fifth recommendation, proposing that a committee be appointed by the Director of the National Gallery of Art to select works of art for an international art exhibition, Chairman Finley said such a procedure was unnecessary in view of existing arrangements, whereby works of art for international loan exhibitions are now selected by the United States Information Agency and the Smithsonian Institution's Travelling Exhibition Service.

The Chairman informed the members that the recommendations had been forwarded to the President without comment, and that copies had been sent to the Post Office Department, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and the Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration. The Post Office Department and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing had sent replies saying that the recommendations were acceptable, but the General Services Administration stated that they wished to follow their present policy with regard to the selection of architects, sculptors and mural painters for government projects.

The Secretary added that, at the request of the Chairman at the meeting on 10 February 1955, he had forwarded to the National Academy of Design copies of correspondence which had been exchanged between the Commission of Fine Arts and the government agencies to which the National Academy's recommendations applied. Under date of 17 February 1955, a

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letter had been received from the Academy in which the Academy informed the Commission that an advisory committee had been appointed to act as consultants with the Post Office Department and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing with regard to postage stamp designs (Exhibit B).

The Chairman then read a letter dated 14 March 1955 from the Academy in which they requested the Commission to consult with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to determine what fee would be appropriate to remunerate the advisory committee appointed by the Academy for their services and on what basis; also, they inquired if the presence of this committee would be required in Washington, and, if so, what arrangements could be made as regards the expenses involved.

The Commission discussed the request in the letter and it was decided that the Chairman should send a reply after consulting with the Post Office Department and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. This was done (Exhibit B-1).

6. POSTAGE STAMP DESIGNS: Chairman Finley informed the members that he had been advised by Assistant Postmaster General Albert J. Robertson that the meeting on March 3, 1955 between the National Academy representatives and the Post Office Department representatives, regarding the improvement of graphic design, had been satisfactory.

A suggestion was made that an executive order similar to the one giving the Commission advisory power over medals would aid in improving graphic designs and that a committee appointed by the Academy could implement such an order under the supervision of the Commission.

The Chairman expressed approval and suggested that such a voluntary committee might serve for a period of three years. He said that the

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Commission's policy had been to call on outside bodies and artists whenever possible to supplement the work of the members of the Commission. The Chairman then asked the Secretary to look into the procedure for arriving at an executive order to this effect.

Mr. Harrison also voiced approval of the plan to improve graphic design through an Academy committee on a voluntary basis. General enthusiasm was expressed, the concensus being to encourage every means to effectuate the proposals.

7. CONSTITUTION AVENUE BRIDGE: The Constitution Avenue bridge/tunnel situation was reviewed by Chairman Finley, who pointed out that it is generally agreed that the traffic congestion from downtown Washington to the Virginia suburbs must be relieved by either a bridge or a tunnel to cross the Potomac River in the vicinity of Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Island. He reviewed for the benefit of the new members the Commission's previous position that a bridge crossing just short of the southern tip of the Island would seriously mar the beauty of the landscape setting, and said that the President had expressed concern about preserving the aesthetic relationships of the memorials and surrounding sites in that area. He pointed out that existing legislation authorized a bridge to be built at Constitution Avenue and said that it will be built unless the President asks Congress to amend the legislation to build a tunnel instead of a bridge.

Mr. Harry T. Thompson, Associate Superintendent, National Capital Parks, entered the meeting and was introduced by Chairman Finley. He also stressed the necessity for some traffic-way across the river. His office, on the other hand, is concerned that such a crossing should not mar the

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landscape surrounding the Lincoln Memorial. Mr. Thompson told the members of the Commission that Mr. Ole Singstad, Professional Engineer and Tunnel Expert, who has successfully built tunnels in various parts of the country, had strongly advocated in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers a tunnel under the Potomac River just north of Memorial Bridge. He provided a visual show with photographs and drawings to give the members a better understanding of problems involved in maintaining aesthetic values in that particular area.

During the meeting Chairman Finley read the Commission's letter to the President dated 16 February 1955, which is being considered along with the Department of the Interior's recommendations, and a letter from Mr. Joseph Grew, representing the trustees of the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association, in which Mr. Grew stated that a Potomac River span below Theodore Roosevelt Island would injure the beauty of the Island and other memorials in that area.

Later, at the suggestion of Mrs. Muir, Mr. Perry made a motion that the Commission should make a statement, through Chairman Finley, advocating a tunnel if no other suitable location can be found for a bridge outside the central area, in order to add weight to previous declarations by the Commission. Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and carried. Chairman Finley said he would draft another letter to the President in which he would reaffirm the position previously taken by the Commission (Exhibit C).

The Chairman then read to the members a draft for a press release which made public the stand being taken by the Commission on the central-area bridge controversy (Exhibit C-1). He also said that it was the custom

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of the Commission to issue all press statements through the Chairman in order to avoid confusion.

8. PROJECTS PENDING BEFORE THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS - FIVE FREEDOMS MEMORIAL AND THE NETHERLAND'S CARILLON: The Commission considered two pending projects for which approval of site and design will fall under the jurisdiction of the Commission of Fine Arts. The first project was a plan to erect a memorial to the Five Freedoms. The second was a plan to erect a tower to house the carillon which was presented to the United States Government by the people of the Netherlands.

The Chairman said that it is proposed that both memorials are to be placed on the Nevius Tract, across the Potomac River from the Lincoln Memorial.

At the request of the Chairman, in order to bring the Commission up to date on the two projects, Mr. Thompson stated that authority now exists for the President to name a commission for the selection of a design for a memorial to the Five Freedoms, but that the commission had not as yet been appointed. He said that there are no immediate plans to proceed with selecting an architect to design a tower, or to choose a site for the carillon tower.

9. WOODRIDGE BRANCH PUBLIC LIBRARY: Preliminary drawings for the Woodridge Branch Public Library to be erected at the southeast corner of Rhode Island Avenue and Eighteenth Street, Northeast, Washington, D. C., were presented by Mr. Leon Chatelain, Jr., Architect, and Mr. Merrel A. Coe, District Supervising Architect. The plans were carefully studied by the members who made several suggestions which they felt would assist the architect in arriving at a more inviting design and would lend the structure distinction in the commercial area in which it is to be erected.

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5. PROBLEMS INVOLVED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF FIVE FREEDOMS - FIVE FREEDOMS MEMORIAL AND THE MORNINGLAND'S CAPITOL: The Commission considered the pending projects for which approval of site and design will fall under the jurisdiction of the Commission of Fine Arts. The first project was a plan to erect a memorial to the Five Freedoms. The second was a plan to erect a tower to house the carillon which was presented to the United States Government by the people of the Netherlands.

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6. CONSIDER PLACE FOR PUBLIC IN MAY: Preliminary drawings for the Woodridge Branch Public Library to be erected at the southeast corner of Rhode Island Avenue and Eighteenth Street, Northeast, Washington, D. C., were presented by Mr. Leon Chatelain, Jr., Architect, and Mr. Kertel A. Doe, District Supervising Architect. The plans were carefully studied by the members who made several suggestions which they felt would assist the architect in arriving at a more inviting design and would lend the appropriate dignity in the commercial area in which it is to be erected.

Messrs. Coe and Chatelain discussed the recommendations with the Secretary at a meeting in Mr. Coe's office on 23 March 1955. They were of the opinion that it would be difficult to keep present plans and fulfill the Commission's recommendations. They informed the Secretary that they would reconsider the design and resubmit it at the next meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on 13 April 1955.

10. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT SUBMISSION: A discussion ensued as to the merits of the application of the National Savings and Trust Company to erect on their premises at 719 - 15th Street, Northwest, a sign that exceeded the twenty-five square feet usually allowed by the Commission in such cases. The Secretary raised the question of making exceptions lest a troublesome precedent be started. Mr. Peets suggested that there was some justification for a concession in this case since the sign would be dark and inoffensive with only a faint light showing from behind the lettering. The Commission decided to defer action until further study and a report could be made at the next meeting.

11. PLACEMENT OF A RECENT GIFT TO THE UNITED STATES - "LABORING YOUTH," SCULPTURED BY HERMANN BLUMENTHAL: Chairman Finley explained that the statue was a gift from the people of Germany to the people of the United States. It was accepted formally by the President on 25 January 1955, and was placed temporarily in the Smithsonian Institution, who had requested the Commission to find a permanent site for the statue in some building or public park.

The Secretary stated that he had contacted officials in the Labor Department about placing the statue in the courtyard of the Department of Labor, but as yet had received no reply. Decision on the matter was postponed until the next meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts.

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11. HEADQUARTERS OF A DISTANT CITY TO BE UNITED STATES - ITALIAN FRIENDSHIP, SUPERVISED of Abraham Lincoln: Chairman Finley explained that the statue was a gift from the people of Germany to the people of the United States. It was accepted formally by the President on 25 January 1955, and was placed temporarily in the Smithsonian Institution, who had requested the Commission to find a permanent site for the statue in some building or public park.

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At 1:00 p. m. the Commission adjourned to lunch at the National Gallery, following which the Commission drove to the Constitution Avenue Bridge site to study the landscape and to determine the merits of a bridge/tunnel parallel to Memorial Bridge. After viewing the site and landscape setting, the members returned to the Commission's offices in the Interior Department Building where they considered other items remaining on the agenda.

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12. LEGISLATION:

H. R. 4698-84th Congress, a bill "To establish a program of grants to States for the development of fine arts programs and projects and for other purposes."

The Secretary reported that H. R. 4698 superseded two previous bills, which the Commission had been requested to report on, namely, H. R. 2210 and H. R. 2625-84th Congress but that no report had been requested on this bill. It was decided to withhold comment on all three bills.

S. 1071-84th Congress, a bill "To provide for the preparation of plans and specifications for a museum building for the Smithsonian Institution."

Under date of 16 February 1955, a letter was received from the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Works requesting the Commission to furnish that Committee with such suggestions as are deemed proper touching the merits of the bill and the propriety of its passage.

The Chairman explained the details of the bill and after full discussion, a report of approval was sent. (Exhibit D).

H. R. 416 and H. R. 2114-84th Congress, bills "To provide for the preparation of plans and specifications for a museum building for the Smithsonian Institution."

Under date of 17 February 1955, a letter was received from the Chairman of the House Committee on Public Works requesting the views of the Commission on the above bills.

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H. R. 4307-84th Congress, a bill "To amend the joint resolution of May 17, 1938, to provide for the construction and maintenance of a National Collection of Fine Arts Museum on the site set aside for an art gallery thereunder, and for other purposes."

Under date of 1 March 1955, a letter was received from the Chairman of the House Committee on Public Works requesting the views of the Commission with respect to the above legislation.

The Commission agreed that the site proposed in the bill would not be adequate for the needs of the National Collection of Fine Arts Museum, and also that the proposed cultural center should not be set up, as proposed, within the Smithsonian Institution. A report was sent accordingly (Exhibit F).

S. 1290-84th Congress, a bill "To provide for the construction of certain Government buildings in the District of Columbia."

Under date of 5 March 1955, a letter was received from the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Works requesting the Commission to furnish that committee with such suggestions as were deemed proper touching on the merits of the bill and the propriety of its passage.

The Commission favored the removal of the temporary war buildings, as proposed; but it was agreed that the legislation should be amended to provide that designs for the construction of new Government buildings to replace the temporary ones be subject to the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts. Such designs primarily concerned buildings authorized in the redevelopment of Southwest Washington.

The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Works was so informed (Exhibit G).

H. J. Res. 232-84th Congress, a joint resolution "authorizing the erection of a memorial gift from the Government of Venezuela."

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Under date of 1 March 1955, a letter was received from the Chairman of the Committee on House Administration requesting a report, and opinion of

the Commission with reference to the above legislation.

The Commission, in considering the bill, agreed that, since legislation had been enacted in 1954 (H. J. Res. 481-83rd Congress, a joint resolution "To amend the Act of July 5, 1949 (P. L. 157, Eighty-First Congress) to accomplish the aims of the above bill, the purpose of the new legislation was not clear and that there might be conflict between existing legislation and the proposed legislation. A report was sent expressing the views of the Commission (Exhibit H).

H. R. 4687-84th Congress, a bill "To authorize the Administrator of General Services to dispose of certain real property in the District of Columbia."

Under date of 10 March 1955, a letter was received from the Chairman of the House Committee on Public Works requesting the Commission's views on the above legislation.

The Commission recalled that previous legislation which proposed to raze the Civil Service Building (Old Patent Office building), had been strongly disapproved and it was agreed that disapproval should also be extended to the proposed legislation.

A report was sent accordingly (Exhibit I).

Two other bills were reviewed as pending legislation on which the Commission might possibly be asked to report. The Chairman outlined the main issues involved in each instance and stated he had testified favorably before a special Subcommittee of the House Committee on the District of Columbia. The objective of the two bills was eventually to accomplish the long-desired and badly-needed cultural center for Washington. The intention of the discussion of the legislation was to serve as background material. The titles of the bills follow:

the Commission with reference to the above legislation.

The Commission, in considering the bill, agreed that, since legislation had been enacted in 1954 (H. J. Res. 451-83rd Congress, a joint resolution "To amend the Act of July 5, 1942 (F. L. 157, Eighty-First Congress) to accomplish the aims of the above bill, the purpose of the new legislation was not clear and that there might be conflict between existing legislation and the proposed legislation. A report was sent expressing the views of the Commission (Exhibit H).

H. R. 4587-84th Congress, a bill "To authorize the Administrator of General Services to dispose of certain real property in the District of Columbia."

Under date of 10 March 1955, a letter was received from the Chairman of the House Committee on Public Works requesting the Commission's views on the above legislation.

The Commission recalled that previous legislation which proposed to raze the Civil Service Building (Old Patent Office building), had been strongly disapproved and it was agreed that disapproval should also be extended to the proposed legislation.

A report was sent accordingly (Exhibit I).

Two other bills were reviewed as pending legislation on which the Commission might possibly be asked to report. The Chairman outlined the main issues involved in each instance and stated he had pertified favorably before a special Subcommittee of the House Committee on the District of Columbia. The objective of the two bills was eventually to accomplish the long-desired and badly-needed cultural center for Washington. The intention of the discussion of the legislation was to serve as background material. The titles of the bills follow:

H. R. 1825-84th Congress, a bill "Creating a Federal Commission to formulate plans for the construction in the District of Columbia of a civic auditorium, including an Inaugural Hall of Presidents and a music, fine arts, and mass communications center."

H. R. 4215-84th Congress, a bill "Creating a Federal Commission to formulate plans for the construction in the District of Columbia of a civic auditorium, including an Inaugural Hall of Presidents and a music, drama, fine arts, and mass communications center."

13. FISCAL YEAR 1957 APPROPRIATIONS: The Chairman read a memorandum which was prepared for the information of the Commission with regard to the submission of preliminary budget estimates for fiscal year 1957 (Exhibit J). The members agreed that studies should be made to determine whether funds could be requested to hire adequate personnel to carry the work load of the secretariat.

14. NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS: The date of the next meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts was set for 13 April 1955.

The Commission adjourned at 4:15 p. m.

H. R. 4215-83th Congress, a bill "Creating a Federal Commission to formulate plans for the construction in the District of Columbia of a civic auditorium, including an Inaugural Hall of Presidents and a music, fine arts, and mass communications center."

H. R. 4215-83th Congress, a bill "Creating a Federal Commission to formulate plans for the construction in the District of Columbia of a civic auditorium, including an Inaugural Hall of Presidents and a music, drama, fine arts, and mass communications center."

13. FISCAL YEAR 1957 APPROPRIATIONS: The Chairman read a memorandum which was prepared for the information of the Commission with regard to the submission of preliminary budget estimates for fiscal year 1957 (Exhibit 1). The members agreed that studies should be made to determine whether funds could be requested to hire adequate personnel to carry the work load of the secretariat.

14. NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS: The date of the next meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts was set for 13 April 1955.

The Commission adjourned at 4:15 p. m.

84TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4534

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 1, 1955

Mr. THOMPSON of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To amend the Act establishing a Commission of Fine Arts.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 2 of the Act entitled "An Act establishing a Commission of Fine Arts", approved May 17, 1910 (40 U. S. C., secs. 104–106), is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated each year such sums as may be necessary to enable the Commission of Fine Arts to carry out its functions under this Act."

I

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAR 4 1955

EXHIBIT A

NOTED

84TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4534

A BILL

To amend the Act establishing a Commission of Fine Arts.

By Mr. THOMPSON of New Jersey

MARCH 1, 1955

Referred to the Committee on House Administration

84TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1413

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 11 (legislative day, MARCH 10), 1955

Mr. GREEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To amend the Act establishing a Commission of Fine Arts.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 2 of the Act entitled "An Act establishing a Commission of Fine Arts", approved May 17, 1910 (40 U. S. C., secs. 104–106), is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated each year such sums as may be necessary to enable the Commission of Fine Arts to carry out its functions under this Act."

I

EXHIBIT A-1

EXHIBIT B

84TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1413

A BILL

To amend the Act establishing a Commission of Fine Arts.

By Mr. GREEN

MARCH 11 (legislative day, MARCH 10), 1955
Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

C O P Y

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN
1083 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, N.Y.

February 17, 1955

Mr. David E. Finley, Chairman
The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

I have your letter of February 14 addressed to Lawrence Grant White, President of the National Academy of Design. Unfortunately Mr. White is in Florida and will not return for two weeks. Fortunately, however, a special meeting of the Council was called for February 16 to consult on other matters, and the Council was therefore enabled to review the context of your request and take action accordingly.

As a result the following committee has been appointed to act in an advisory capacity in consultation with Mr. Robert Fellers, Director, Division of Philately, Bureau of Finance: Mr. Norman Kent, N.A., Mr. Fritz Eichenberg, N.A., Mr. Anthony de Francisci, N.A.; alternates: Mr. Thomas Cleland, Mr. Paul Manship, N.A. and Mr. Edward A. Wilson, A.N.A.

You will note that the committee appointed includes two graphic artists and one sculptor, the latter chosen for outstanding work as a medalist.

Should the above committee be approved, and should Mr. Robert Fellers, or his representative wish to discuss with this committee the conditions involved, the most expeditious procedure would be to contact Mr. Vernon C. Porter, Director of the National Academy (1083 Fifth Avenue, New York 28; Tel. EN 9-4880) who could in turn contact the members of the committee and make arrangements mutually agreeable.

The Council is much pleased that the Commission of Fine Arts has approved its recommendations in this regard and that it is acceptable to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Eliot Clark
Corresponding Secretary

EXHIBIT B

EXHIBIT B

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

21 March 1955

Mr. Eliot Clark
Corresponding Secretary
National Academy of Design
1083 Fifth Avenue
New York 28, New York

Dear Mr. Clark:

I discussed your letter of 14 March 1955 regarding Mr. Robert E. Fellers and Mr. Donald R. McLeod's conference with the advisory committee on stamps at a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on 15 March 1955. I also mentioned receiving a telephone call from Mr. Albert J. Robertson, Assitant Postmaster General, regarding the benefits of the conference.

The Members of the Commission were very interested to learn that the arrangements were successful and hoped that from this beginning we may be able to develop a procedure for regular consultations on stamp designs. We are investigating the steps required to do so.

It is hoped that the members of the advisory stamp committee will agree to the same conditions regarding remuneration as the Members of the Commission of Fine Arts who serve without compensation but receive travel and subsistence for the time involved. The Commission of Fine Arts should maintain supervisory control over arrangements for bringing together the interested parties who will submit the results of their conferences to the Commission of Fine Arts for review.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

EXHIBIT B-1

COPY

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

21 March 1955

Mr. Elliot Clark
Corresponding Secretary
National Academy of Design
1083 Fifth Avenue
New York 28, New York

Dear Mr. Clark:

I discussed your letter of 14 March 1955 regarding Mr. Robert E. Fellers and Mr. Donald E. Mcleod's conference with the advisory committee on stamps as a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on 15 March 1955. I also mentioned receiving a telephone call from Mr. Albert J. Robertson, Assistant Postmaster General, regarding the benefits of the conference.

The Members of the Commission were very interested to learn that the arrangements were successful and hoped that from this beginning we may be able to develop a procedure for regular consultations on stamp designs. We are investigating the steps required to do so.

It is hoped that the members of the advisory stamp committee will agree to the same conditions regarding reimbursement as the Members of the Commission of Fine Arts who serve without compensation but receive travel and subsistence for the time involved. The Commission of Fine Arts should maintain supervisory control over arrangements for bringing together the interested parties who will submit the results of their conference to the Commission of Fine Arts for review.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

ENCLOSURE S-1

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

March 16, 1955

My dear Mr. President:

The Commission of Fine Arts held a meeting yesterday, at which the full membership was present, including those whom you have recently appointed to the Commission.

The Commission gave consideration to the proposed bridge which has been authorized by the Congress to be erected over the Potomac River between the Memorial Bridge and Theodore Roosevelt Island. They also visited the proposed site of the bridge at the end of Constitution Avenue and, after careful study of the effect which such a bridge would have on the landscape setting of the Lincoln Memorial, Theodore Roosevelt Island, and Arlington National Cemetery, the members by unanimous vote arrived at the conclusion that a bridge should never be built at this location.

The present members of the Commission, as do their predecessors, feel that a bridge at the location proposed would seriously mar the beauty of these memorials, which constitute such an important part of the heritage of the American people. The Commission strongly urge that a tunnel be built if no other site for a bridge is available, and have asked me to forward their recommendations to you. This action reaffirms the position previously taken by the Commission of Fine Arts in their recommendations to the Congress and to you as set forth in my letter of February 16, 1955.

The Commission hope that you may be willing to recommend to the Congress that existing legislation (Public Law 704, 83rd Congress) be amended to provide for the construction of a tunnel instead of a bridge in the vicinity of the Lincoln Memorial and Theodore Roosevelt Island.

For The Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.
cc: Governor Adams, Hon. J. C. Grew

EXHIBIT C

COPY

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

March 16, 1955

My dear Mr. President:

The Commission of Fine Arts held a meeting yesterday, at which the full membership was present, including those whom you have recently appointed to the Commission.

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For The Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.
cc: Governor Adams, Hon. J. C. Crew

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

15 March 1955

PRESS RELEASE

The Commission of Fine Arts held a meeting today at which were present: The Chairman, David E. Finley, also Mr. Elbert Peets, and Mr. Felix W. de Weldon, who were recently reappointed by the President; and the following new members recently appointed by the President to the Commission: Mrs. Emily L. Muir, Mr. Wallace K. Harrison, Mr. Douglas William Orr, and Mr. William Graves Perry.

Mr. Finley was re-elected Chairman and Mr. Orr was elected Vice-Chairman.

The Commission considered a number of matters including the proposed bridge which has been authorized to be built over the Potomac River between the Memorial Bridge and Theodore Roosevelt Island. After careful study of the effect of the proposed bridge on the landscape setting of the Lincoln Memorial, Theodore Roosevelt Island and Arlington National Cemetery, the Commission by unanimous vote arrived at the conclusion that a bridge should never be built at this location. They strongly urged that a tunnel be built if no other site is available for a bridge and will so recommend to the President. This reaffirms the position previously taken by the Commission in their recommendation to the Congress and to the President.

EXHIBIT C-1

COPY

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

15 March 1955

PRESS RELEASE

The Commission of Fine Arts held a meeting today at which were present: The Chairman, David E. Finley, also Mr. Elbert Peets, and Mr. Felix W. de Weldon, who were recently reappointed by the President; and the following new members recently appointed by the President to the Commission: Mrs. Emily L. Muir, Mr. Wallace K. Harrison, Mr. Douglas William Orr, and Mr. William Graves Perry.

Mr. Finley was re-elected Chairman and Mr. Orr was elected Vice-Chairman.

The Commission considered a number of matters including the proposed bridge which has been authorized to be built over the Potomac River between the Memorial Bridge and Theodore Roosevelt Island. After careful study of the effect of the proposed bridge on the landscape setting of the Lincoln Memorial, Theodore Roosevelt Island and Arlington National Cemetery, the Commission by unanimous vote arrived at the conclusion that a bridge should never be built at this location. They strongly urged that a tunnel be built if no other site is available for a bridge and will so recommend to the President. This reaffirms the position previously taken by the Commission in their recommendation to the Congress and to the President.

EXHIBIT C-1

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

4 March 1955

Honorable Dennis Chavez, Chairman
Committee on Public Works
412 Senate Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Chavez:

Your letter of 16 February 1955 referred S. 1071, "A bill to provide for the preparation of plans and specifications for a museum building for the Smithsonian Institution," to the Commission for comment regarding the merits of the bill and the propriety of its passage. It is noted that S. 1071 is identical with S. 3622-83rd Congress and H. R. 9500-83rd Congress which the Commission of Fine Arts considered and approved previously.

The Commission understands that the projected building is intended for a museum of History and Technology and that it will house the collections now in the existing Arts and Industries building which has long been inadequate for the purpose. The Commission also understands that the proposed building will be placed in the Mall between 12th and 14th Streets, facing Constitution Avenue.

The Commission is glad to approve S. 1071 and hopes that it will be enacted into law so that plans may go forward without delay for the eventual erection of a museum building for the Smithsonian Institution on the site indicated.

We have been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there is no objection to the enactment of S. 1071 with the understanding that no commitment can be made with respect to approval of an estimate of appropriation for construction of the building until such time as the budgetary situation has improved sufficiently to justify this action.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

EXHIBIT D

COPY

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

4 March 1955

Honorable Dennis Chavez, Chairman
Committee on Public Works
412 Senate Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Chavez:

Your letter of 16 February 1955 referred S. 1071, "A bill to provide for the preparation of plans and specifications for a museum building for the Smithsonian Institution," to the Commission for comment regarding the merits of the bill and the propriety of its passage. It is noted that S. 1071 is identical with S. 3623-83rd Congress and H. R. 9500-83rd Congress which the Commission of Fine Arts considered and approved previously.

The Commission understands that the projected building is intended for a museum of History and Technology and that it will house the collections now in the existing arts and industries building which has long been inadequate for the purpose. The Commission also understands that the proposed building will be placed in the mall between 12th and 14th Streets, facing Constitution Avenue.

The Commission is glad to approve S. 1071 and hopes that it will be enacted into law so that plans may go forward without delay for the eventual erection of a museum building for the Smithsonian Institution on the site indicated.

We have been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there is no objection to the enactment of S. 1071 with the understanding that no commitment can be made with respect to approval of an estimate of appropriation for construction of the building until such time as the budgetary situation has improved sufficiently to justify this action.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

EXHIBIT D

C O P Y

84th Congress
1st Session

S. 1071

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

February 15, 1955
Mr. Chavez introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Public Works

A B I L L

To provide for the preparation of plans and specifications for a museum building for the Smithsonian Institution.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution are hereby authorized and directed to have prepared drawings and specifications, and to have done all work incidental thereto, for a building (including equipment, approaches, architectural landscape treatment of the grounds and connections with public utilities, and the Federal heating system) for the use of the Smithsonian Institution, to be located on that part of reservation 3 which is bounded by Twelfth Street Northwest on the east, Fourteenth Street Northwest on the west, Constitution Avenue on the north, and Madison Drive on the south, title to which is in the United States.

SEC. 2. The said Regents shall estimate the cost of said building and report its findings to the Congress.

SEC. 3. The exact location of the building on the site shall be approved by the National Capital Planning Commission, and the design shall be approved by the Commission of Fine Arts.

SEC. 4. The preparation of said drawings and specifications and all work incidental thereto shall be under the supervision of the Administrator of the General Services Administration in accordance with provisions of the Public Buildings Act of May 25, 1926, as amended.

SEC. 5. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated a sum not in excess of $990,000 to carry out the provisions of this Act: Provided, That appropriations for this purpose, except such part as may be necessary for the incidental expenses of the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution in connection with this project, shall be transferred to the General Services Administration for the performance of the work.

COPY

84th Congress
1st Session

S. 1071

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

February 15, 1955

Mr. Chavez introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Public Works

---

A BILL

To provide for the preparation of plans and specifications for a museum building for the Smithsonian Institution.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of American Congress assembled, That the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution are hereby authorized and directed to have prepared drawings and specifications, and to have done all work incidental thereto, for a building (including equipment, approaches, architectural landscape treatment of the grounds and connections with public utilities, and the federal heating system) for the use of the Smithsonian Institution, to be located on that part of reservation 3 which is bounded by Twelfth Street Northwest on the east, Fourteenth Street Northwest on the west, Constitution Avenue on the north, and Madison Drive on the south, title to which is in the United States.

SEC. 2. The said Regents shall estimate the cost of said building and report its findings to the Congress.

SEC. 3. The exact location of the building on the site shall be approved by the National Capital Planning Commission, and the design shall be approved by the Commission of Fine Arts.

SEC. 4. The preparation of said drawings and specifications and all work incidental thereto shall be under the supervision of the Administrator of the General Services Administration in accordance with provisions of the Public Buildings Act of May 25, 1926, as amended.

SEC. 5. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated a sum not in excess of $750,000 to carry out the provisions of this Act: Provided, That appropriations for this purpose, except such part as may be necessary for the incidental expenses of the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution in connection with this project, shall be transferred to the General Services Administration for the performance of the work.

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

7 March 1955

Honorable Charles A. Buckley, Chairman
Committee on Public Works
1304 New House Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman Buckley:

Your letter of 17 February 1955 referred H. R. 416 and H. R. 2114, bills "To provide for the preparation of plans and specifications for a museum building for the Smithsonian Institution," to the Commission for its views on the two bills. It is noted that the two bills are identical with S. 1071-84th Congress, S. 3622-83rd Congress, and H. R. 9500-83rd Congress which the Commission of Fine Arts considered and approved previously.

The Commission understands that the building is intended for a museum of History and Technology and will house the collections now in the existing Arts and Industries building which has long been inadequate for the purpose. The Commission also understands that the proposed building will be placed in the Mall between 12th and 14th Streets, facing Constitution Avenue.

The Commission is glad to approve H. R. 416 and H. R. 2114, and hopes that they will be enacted into law so that plans may go forward without delay for the eventual erection of a museum building for the Smithsonian Institution on the site indicated.

We have been advised by the Bureau of the Budget by telephone that there is no objection to the enactment of H R. 416 and H. R. 2114 with the understanding that no commitment can be made with respect to approval of an estimate of appropriation for construction of the building until such time as the budgetary situation has improved sufficiently to justify this action.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
Sgd. David E. Finley
Chairman

EXHIBIT E

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

7 March 1955

Honorable Charles A. Buckley, Chairman
Committee on Public Works
1304 New House Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman Buckley:

Your letter of 17 February 1955 referred H. R. 416 and H. J. 214, bills "To provide for the preparation of plans and specifications for a museum building for the Smithsonian Institution," to the Commission for its views on the two bills. It is noted that the bills are identical with S. 1013-83th Congress, S. 3522-83rd Congress, and H. R. 9500-83rd Congress which the Commission of Fine Arts considered and approved previously.

The Commission understands that the building is intended for a museum of History and Technology and will house the collections now in the existing Arts and Industries building which has long been inadequate for its purpose. The Commission also understands that the proposed building will be placed in the Mall between 12th and 14th Streets, facing Constitution Avenue.

The Commission is glad to approve H. R. 416 and H. J. 214, and hopes that they will be enacted into law so that plans may go forward without delay for the eventual erection of a museum building for the Smithsonian Institution on the site indicated.

We have been advised by the Bureau of the Budget by telephone that there is no objection to the enactment of H. R. 416 and H. J. 214 with the understanding that no commitment can be made with respect to approval of an estimate of appropriation for construction of the building until such time as the budgetary situation has improved sufficiently to justify this action.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gyd. David E. Finley
Chairman

84TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 416

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 1955

Mr. DONDERO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Public Works

A BILL

To provide for the preparation of plans and specifications for a museum building for the Smithsonian Institution.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution are hereby authorized and directed to have prepared drawings and specifications, and to have done all work incidental thereto, for a building (including equipment, approaches, architectural landscape treatment of the grounds and connections with public utilities, and the Federal heating system) for the use of the Smithsonian Institution, to be located on that part of reservation 3 which is bounded by Twelfth Street Northwest on the east, Fourteenth Street Northwest on the

Same as H. R. 2114

EXHIBIT F

west, Constitution Avenue on the north, and Madison Drive on the south, title to which is in the United States.

SEC. 2. The said Regents shall estimate the cost of said building and report their findings to the Congress.

SEC. 3. The exact location of the building on the site shall be approved by the National Capital Planning Commission, and the design shall be approved by the Commission of Fine Arts.

SEC. 4. The preparation of said drawings and specifications and all work incidental thereto shall be under the supervision of the Administrator of the General Services Administration in accordance with provisions of the Public Buildings Act of May 25, 1926, as amended.

SEC. 5. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated a sum not in excess of $990,000 to carry out the provisions of this Act: *Provided,* That appropriations for this purpose, except such part as may be necessary for the incidental expenses of the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution in connection with this project, shall be transferred to the General Services Administration for the performance of the work.

EXHIBIT F

84TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 416

A BILL

To provide for the preparation of plans and specifications for a museum building for the Smithsonian Institution.

By Mr. DONDERO

JANUARY 5, 1955

Referred to the Committee on Public Works

H. R. 4307

Letter to Chairman, Committee on Public Works, House of Representatives, regarding the Commissions views on H. R. 4307, was sent to Bureau of Budget for clearance. No reply has as yet been received from the Bureau of the Budget.

A BILL

EXHIBIT F

Letter to Chairman, Committee on Public Works, House of Representatives, regarding the Commissions views on H. R. 4307, was sent to Bureau of Budget for clearance. No reply has as yet been received from the Bureau of the Budget.

84TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4307

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 23, 1955

Mr. THOMPSON of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Public Works

A BILL

To amend the joint resolution of May 17, 1938, to provide for the construction and maintenance of a National Collection of Fine Arts Museum on the site set aside for an art gallery thereunder, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 2 of the joint resolution entitled "Joint resolution to set apart public ground for the Smithsonian Gallery of Art, and for other purposes", approved May 17, 1938, is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. (a) The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution (hereinafter referred to as the 'Regents'), in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, are hereby

authorized to appoint an architect or architects and other necessary experts and consultants, and to secure appropriate designs for a building to be constructed on the site above described. Such building shall include auditoriums (with mass communication facilities) for the presentation of music and the theater arts, and shall be designed so as to permit its future expansion, with adequate parking arrangements and provision for landscaping its surroundings.

"(b) In carrying out subsection (a), the Regents are authorized to utilize the assistance and advice of the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, the National Capital Regional Planning Council, the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Recreation Board, and the District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency, which shall upon request render such assistance and advice.

"(c) (1) There is hereby created an advisory board, which shall advise and consult with the Regents in carrying out their functions under subsection (a). The advisory board shall consist of—

"(A) one person selected by each of the following national organizations in the field of State and local government and civic affairs: The Council of State Governments, the American Society of Planning Officials, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment

Officials, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Society of Landscape Architects;

"(B) one person selected by each of the following women's national organizations: The General Federation of Women's Clubs, the Women's Division of the Democratic National Committee, the Association of Junior Leagues of America, the Women's Division of the Republican National Committee, and the American Association of University Women;

"(C) one person selected by each of the following national organizations in the field of education: The National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the National Education Association, the American Council on Education, the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Educational Theatre Association, the Music Educators National Conference, the National Art Education Association, the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, the College Art Association, the American Musicological Society, the Association of American Colleges, the American Political Science Association, and the American Federation of Teachers;

"(D) one person selected by each of the following national organizations in the field of the plastic arts and letters: The Committee on Government and Art, the American Institute of Architects, the National In-

stitute of Arts and Letters, the American Federation of Arts, the National League of American Pen Women, the National Society of Arts and Letters, the American Association of Museums, the American Institute of Decorators, the Association of Art Museum Directors, the National Association of Women Artists, the Sculptors Guild, the National Society of Mural Painters, and the Society of Architectural Historians;

"(E) one person selected by each of the following national music organizations: The National Music Council, the National Federation of Music Clubs, the American Symphony Orchestra League, the Music Teachers National Association, the American Federation of Musicians, the American Guild of Organists, the American Guild of Musical Artists, the National Association of Schools of Music, the Music Library Association, the National Association of Teachers of Singing, the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, the Music Publishers' Association of the United States, Broadcast Music, Incorporated, and SESAC, Incorporated;

"(F) one person selected by each of the following national organizations in the field of drama: The National Association of Community Theaters, the National Theater Conference, the Children's Theater Conference,

the American National Theater and Academy, the Actors Equity Association, and the Chorus Equity Association;

"(G) one person selected by each of the following national organizations in the field of mass communications: The Motion Picture Association of America, Incorporated, the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters, the Film Council of America, and the National Citizens Committee for Educational Television;

"(H) one person selected by each of the following national organizations in the field of recreation and sports: The American Recreation Society and the National Recreation Association; and

"(I) one person selected by each of the following national service organizations: The United Service Organizations (USO), the Young Women's Christian Association, the National Jewish Welfare Board, the National Council of Young Men's Christian Associations, the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the American Association of Social Workers, the Community Chests and Councils of America, Incorporated, and the National Social Welfare Assembly.

"(2) The advisory board may exercise its functions through a working committee composed of eighteen mem-

bers, two selected jointly by the organizations named in each of the categories enumerated in paragraph (1)."

SEC. 2. (a) Section 3 (b) of such joint resolution is amended by striking out "Director of Procurement, Treasury Department," and inserting in lieu thereof "Administrator of General Services".

(b) Section 3 (c) of such joint resolution is amended to read as follows:

"(c) The name of the building shall be the National Collection of Fine Arts Museum (hereinafter referred to as the 'Museum'), and it shall be under the supervision and control of the Regents and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution."

(c) Section 3 of such joint resolution is further amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

"(d) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary, in addition to the funds received under subsection (a) of this section, to carry out the purposes of this joint resolution."

SEC. 3. Section 5 of such joint resolution is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. All agencies of the Government are authorized to donate to the Museum any works of art now or hereafter under their control."

SEC. 4. Sections 4 (a), 6, 7, and 8 of such joint resolution are amended by striking out "Gallery" wherever it appears and inserting in lieu thereof "Museum".

84TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4307

A BILL

To amend the joint resolution of May 17, 1938, to provide for the construction and maintenance of a National Collection of Fine Arts Museum on the site set aside for an art gallery thereunder, and for other purposes.

By Mr. THOMPSON of New Jersey

FEBRUARY 23, 1955
Referred to the Committee on Public Works

C O P Y

21 March 1955

Honorable Dennis Chavez, Chairman
Committee on Public Works
412 Senate Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Chavez:

The Commission of Fine Arts considered S. 1290, A bill "to provide for the construction of certain Government buildings in the District of Columbia," at a meeting on 15 March 1955.

The Commission has strongly advocated the removal of the temporary buildings which have for so long marred the beauty of the Mall. The Members agreed, however, that approval of the legal and financial problems involved in accomplishing the purposes of S. 1290 is not within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

It is assumed that, if enacted, the General Services Administration will consult with the Commission of Fine Arts on the design of all buildings in accordance with the provisions of Public Law 181 - 81st Congress, the Act establishing the Commission of Fine Arts. It is recommended that the legislation be amended to include a provision requiring that the plans and design, including the site, for such buildings be subject to the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your Committee.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

EXHIBIT G

H. R. 4807

84TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1290

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 1955

Mr. CHAVEZ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Public Works

A BILL

To provide for the construction of certain Government buildings in the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That when the District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency (hereinafter referred to as the "Agency") has acquired the real property situated between Independence Avenue and G Street, and between Twelfth Street and Sixth Street Southwest, in the District of Columbia, the General Services Administration is authorized to acquire on behalf of the United States by purchase from the Agency, at cost or then current market value, whichever is greater, title to such land as may be required by the said Administration

as sites and approaches for the erection of buildings thereon to provide space and facilities for the accommodation of executive agencies of the Government: *Provided,* That upon completion of each such office building there shall be demolished a temporary building or buildings in the District of Columbia of approximately equivalent occupancy.

SEC. 2. The General Services Administration is hereby authorized to negotiate, in pursuance of the provisions of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, and enter into purchase contracts for the use, occupancy, and acquisition of the aforesaid public buildings to be constructed on such land: *Provided,* That the payments under such contracts and for acquisitions of land are approved by the Committee on Public Works of the Senate and the House of Representatives: *Provided further,* That General Services Administration is authorized to transfer to the Agency such parcels of land under the jurisdiction of the General Services Administration situate in the area and described in section 1 hereof, on behalf of the United States and to accept in consideration therefor, lands or interests therein situate elsewhere in said area.

SEC. 3. The authorities herein vested in the General Services Administration may be exercised by that Administration for the account and benefit of the Smithsonian Institution subject to reimbursement of General Services Adminis-

tration by Smithsonian Institution for all costs incurred by said Administration for the account of the Smithsonian Institution.

SEC. 4. The terms of contracts entered into under this Act shall not be more than thirty years and shall provide that title to the property constructed thereunder shall vest in the United States at or before the expiration of the contract term and upon fulfillment of the terms and conditions stipulated in the purchase contract. Such terms and conditions shall include provisions for the construction of a building or buildings meeting the requirements specified in this Act, and shall include provision for the application to the purchase price agreed upon therein of installment payments applicable to liquidation of principal made thereunder.

SEC. 5. (a) Each purchase contract entered into under this Act shall include such provisions as the General Services Administration, in its discretion, shall deem to be in the best interests of the United States and appropriate to secure the performance of the obligations upon the party or parties that shall enter into such contract with the United States.

(b) No such contract shall provide for the payment by the United States pursuant to the terms thereof of moneys applicable to liquidation of unpaid balance of principal with interest thereon in an aggregate annual amount in excess

of 10 per centum of the fair market value of improvements to the land on the date of completion of such construction.

SEC. 6. The General Services Administration is authorized to prepare or cause to be prepared drawings and specifications in such detail as shall be required to clearly and fully depict the design, scope, physical characteristics, and salient features of each such building and to utilize such drawings and specifications to insure competition upon strictly comparable bases among prospective subcontractors of the vendor of the project or projects and to insure development of such projects along lines designed to meet the specific needs of the Government.

SEC. 7. Buildings constructed under this Act shall be a part of and conform to a plan for the redevelopment of the southwestern portion of the District of Columbia undertaken under the District of Columbia Redevelopment Act of 1945 and shall meet such plans and specifications relating to the area redevelopment as may be agreed upon by the Administrator of General Services and the Agency, except that such buildings as may be constructed for the use and account of the Smithsonian Institution shall require, in addition, the approval of the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

SEC. 8. The public buildings constructed hereunder shall be tax free, however, until such times as titles to the respective buildings shall vest in the United States, payments in lieu of taxes shall be made by the General Services Administration to the District of Columbia, in amounts equal to the taxes paid as of June 1, 1955, on the land on which the aforesaid public buildings shall be erected, including improvement existing thereon as of said date.

SEC. 9. The General Services Administration, with respect to land acquired in pursuance of and for the purposes of this Act, is authorized to make available to the respective party or parties with which purchase contracts shall be consummated, by suitable permit, license or other adequate instrument, the use and occupancy of the Government-owned land upon which the respective buildings projects shall be constructed: *Provided,* That the terms of such permits, licenses, or other adequate instruments are hereby authorized to be of such form and substance as will provide appropriate safeguards for the interests of the respective party or parties to whom they shall be issued in the securing of financing and in the protection of their respective title interests in the improvements but no such permit, license, or other instrument shall serve to divest the United States of its title to said parcels of land.

SEC. 10. Sections 3733 and 3734 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (40 U. S. C., sec. 259; 41 U. S. C., sec. 12) shall not apply to purchase contracts entered into under this Act.

SEC. 11. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to make the installment and other payments and costs authorized to be made in this Act.

84TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1290

A BILL

To provide for the construction of certain Government buildings in the District of Columbia.

By Mr. CHAVEZ

MARCH 4, 1955
Read twice and referred to the Committee on Public Works

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

H. J. RES. 232

18 March 1955

Honorable Omar Burleson, Chairman
Committee on House Administration
G-52 United States Capitol
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman Burleson:

The Commission of Fine Arts considered H. J. Res. 232-84th Congress, a Joint Resolution "authorizing the erection of a memorial gift from the government of Venezuela," at a meeting on 15 March 1955.

The subject of this legislation is one that has already been favorably considered previously in June 1954 when the Commission approved H. J. Res. 481 and H. J. Res. 508-83rd Congress, which extended the validity of Public Law 157-81st Congress for ten years. The Commission of Fine Arts has no objection to the proposed legislation, and hopes that its enactment will permit the Venezuelan Government's plans to present a Simon Bolivar Memorial to the United States to go forward without delay.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your Committee.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

David E. Finley
Chairman

EXHIBIT H

COPY

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

18 March 1955

Honorable Omar Burleson, Chairman
Committee on House Administration
G-52 United States Capitol
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman Burleson:

The Commission of Fine Arts considered H. J. Res. 232-84th Congress, a Joint Resolution "authorizing the presentation of a memorial gift from the government of Venezuela," at a meeting on 15 March 1955.

The subject of this legislation is one that has already been favorably considered previously in June 1954 when the Commission approved H. J. Res. 481 and H. J. Res. 506-83rd Congress, which extended the validity of Public Law 157-83rd Congress for ten years. The Commission of Fine Arts has no objection to the proposed legislation, and hopes that the enactment will permit the Venezuelan Government's plans to present a Simon Bolivar Memorial to the United States to go forward without delay.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your Committee.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

David E. Finley
Chairman

EXHIBIT H

84TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 232

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 24, 1955

Mr. BURLESON introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

JOINT RESOLUTION

Authorizing the erection of a memorial gift from the Government of Venezuela.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to accept, on behalf of the Government of the United States, a statue of the liberator, Simon Bolivar, to be erected on public grounds under the administration of the Secretary of the Interior, as a gift to the Government of the United States from the Government of Venezuela as a token of friendship.

SEC. 2. The design and site of such statue shall be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, the National Capital Planning Commission, and the Commission of Fine

Arts, and the United States shall be put to no expense in or by the erection of this statue.

SEC. 3. (a) The authority conferred pursuant to this joint resolution shall lapse unless the erection of such statue is commenced within five years after the date of the passage of this joint resolution.

(b) All Acts or parts of Acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.

84TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 232

JOINT RESOLUTION

Authorizing the erection of a memorial gift from the Government of Venezuela.

By Mr. BURLESON

FEBRUARY 24, 1955
Referred to the Committee on House Administration

C O P Y

18 March 1955

Honorable Charles A. Buckley, Chairman
Committee on Public Works
1304 New House Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman Buckley:

The Commission of Fine Arts gave careful consideration to H. R. 4687, A Bill "to authorize the Administrator of General Services to dispose of certain real property in the District of Columbia," at a meeting on 15 March 1955.

The Commission could not give its approval to the destruction of an important historical and architectural monument such as the Old Patent Office. The building now fulfills a useful purpose. The members feel that this building, of which the distinguished American architect, Robert Mills, was architect in charge of construction, should be preserved, and that its destruction, as a result of action taken by the Federal Government, would have a discouraging effect on the movement for the preservation of architectural and historical monuments in this country in which the Federal Government has taken such an important part.

The Commission hopes that the Old Patent Office Building may be preserved and that the proposed legislation will not be enacted into law.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your Committee.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

EXHIBIT I

EXHIBIT I

15 March 1955

Honorable Charles E. Bradley, Chairman
Committee on Public Works
1304 New Horse Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman Bradley:

The Commission of Fine Arts gave careful consideration to H. R. 4607, A Bill "To authorize the demolishment of General Services to dispose of certain real property in the District of Columbia," at a meeting on 15 March 1955.

The Commission could not give its approval to the demolition of an important historical and architectural monument such as the Old Patent Office. The building now fulfills a useful purpose. The members feel that this building, of which the distinguished American architect, Robert Mills, was architect in charge of construction, should be preserved, and that its destruction, as a result of action taken by the Federal Government, would have a discouraging effect on the movement for the preservation of architectural and historical monuments in this country in which the Federal Government has taken such important part.

The Commission hopes that the Old Patent Office Building may be preserved and that the proposed legislation will not be enacted into law.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your Committee.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

C O P Y

84th Congress
1st Session

H. R. 4687

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
March 7, 1955
Mr. Morrison introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Public Works

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A B I L L

To authorize the Administrator of General Services to dispose of certain real property in the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Administrator of General Services is hereby authorized to dispose of the Civil Service Commission Building, formerly known as the Patent Office Building, and the site thereof located between Seventh and Ninth Streets and between F and G Streets Northwest, in the District of Columbia, in such manner, and for such purposes, and upon such terms and conditions as the Administrator deems proper, and to execute such documents for the transfer of title in said property and take such other action as he deems necessary or proper to dispose of such property.

84th Congress
1st Session

H. R. 4647

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 7, 1955

Mr. Morrison introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Public Works

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A BILL

To authorize the Administrator of General Services to dispose of certain real property in the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Administrator of General Services is hereby authorized to dispose of the Civil Service Commission Building, formerly known as the Patent Office Building, and the site thereof located between Seventh and Ninth Streets and between F and G Streets Northwest, in the District of Columbia, in such manner, and for such purposes, and upon such terms and conditions as the Administrator deems proper, and to execute such documents for the transfer of title in said property and take such other action as he deems necessary or proper to dispose of such property.

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Commission of Fine Arts DATE: 15 March 1955

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 1957 Estimates

The Interior Department has requested us to begin to assemble data as soon as practicable to cover the estimate of appropriations that the Commission will require in fiscal year 1957.

During the 45 years of the Commission's existence two public laws and four executive orders have broadened the scope of the duties of the Commission with no corresponding increase in funds and personnel to accomplish the work. As a result the small staff of the Secretary's office has been able to accomplish the necessary work at a very much reduced speed and at the sacrifice of some desirable services the Commission might render. The advent of a new Secretary last June highlighted the shortcomings of the existing administrative procedures and indicated the importance of initiating a modest expansion. A study of the situation has revealed that:

(a) The grades of the four civil service positions now allotted to the Commission are comparatively lower than the grades of corresponding responsibility in other agencies of the Government.

(b) The present funds allotted the Commission will not permit having an incumbent for the fourth position authorized.

(c) The Secretary is overburdened with too many time-consuming administrative functions that have to be accomplished in working hours, so that all work on reports, legislation, policy or research must be relegated to off-duty hours.

(d) The capacities of the clerical staff are overtaxed and the traditional minutes of the Commission, for example, can only be produced with undesirable delay. It is difficult to keep an incumbent in the GS-3 clerk-typist job because of the low salary.

(e) The ability of the Commission to supply information is greatly handicapped by inability to maintain an adequate processing and filing system for fine arts material.

Congressional response to increasing agitation in the art world for a broader participation in the government has swamped the Commission with an inordinate amount of research and reports on proposed legislation not only during the period when Congress is in session, but also during the recess period. The personal attention of the Secretary to this work is required and is very time-consuming at the expense of other duties.

EXHIBIT J

COPY

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MEMORANDUM

TO : The Commission of Fine Arts DATE: 15 March 1956

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 1957 Estimates

The Interior Department has requested us to begin to assemble data as soon as practicable to cover the estimate of appropriations that the Commission will require in fiscal year 1957.

During the 45 years of the Commission's existence two public laws and four executive orders have broadened the scope of the duties of the Commission with no corresponding increase in funds and personnel to accomplish the work. As a result the small staff of the Secretary's office has been able to accomplish the necessary work at a very much reduced speed and at the sacrifice of some desirable services the Commission might render. The advent of a new Secretary last June intensified the shortcomings of the existing administrative procedures and indicated the importance of initiating a modest expansion. A study of the situation has revealed that:

(a) The grades of the few civil service positions now allotted to the Commission are comparatively lower than the grades of corresponding responsibility in other agencies of the Government.

(b) The present funds allotted the Commission will not permit having an incumbent for the fourth position authorized.

(c) The Secretary is overburdened with too many time-consuming administrative functions that have to be accomplished in working hours, so that all work on reports, legislation, policy or research must be relegated to off-duty hours.

(d) The capacities of the clerical staff are overtaxed and the traditional minutes of the Commission, for example, can only be produced with undesirable delay. It is difficult to keep an incumbent in the GS-3 clerk-typist job because of the low salary.

(e) The ability of the Commission to supply information is greatly handicapped by inability to maintain an adequate processing and filing system for fine arts material.

Congressional response to increasing agitation in the art world for a broader participation in the government has swamped the Commission with an inordinate amount of research and reports on proposed legislation not only during the period when Congress is in session, but also during the recess period. The personal attention of the Secretary to this work is required and is very time-consuming at the expense of other duties.

The Commission has operated for so long on a very limited budget that any attempt to expand and increase the amount will probably be looked on with opposition in view of the Administration's desire to reduce spending. A reasonable increase in the Commission's expenditures would not push the overall budget figure above $35,000 for fiscal year 1957.

The views of the members of the Commission are desired.

Sgd.
David E. Finley
Chairman

The Commission has operated for so long on a very limited budget that any attempt to expand and increase the amount will probably be looked on with opposition in view of the Administration's desire to reduce spending. A reasonable increase in the Commission's expenditures would not push the overall budget figure above $35,000 for fiscal year 1957.

The views of the members of the Commission are desired.

Sgd.
David K. Finley
Chairman